

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview with Applicants' representative on September 15, 2010. During the interview, the Examiner stated that Maeda '627 (U.S. 6,567,627) discloses, at col. 7, lines 7-14, "pressing the "close" key B12 . . . completes the allocation of consolidation functions with the settings. . . [and] displayed is a screen 5a which displays the selected name . . . on the "basic 2" key." The Examiner further asserted that Maeda's teaching to display a selected name on the "basic 2" key subsequent to pressing the close key could be interpreted to correspond with "enabling the setting of the image forming condition," as recited by claims 1 and 12.

While Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the cited reference, in order to advance prosecution, Applicants amend claims 1 and 12 to further define the claim term "image forming condition." Amended claims 1 and 12 recite "an image forming condition for forming an image on a recording medium."

In view of the Interview of September 15, 2010, the amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-3, 5-12, and 14-19, and 22 over Maeda et al. (U.S. 6,785,487; Maeda '487) in view of Maeda et al. (U.S. 6,567,627; Maeda '627). As discussed during the Interview, Maeda '627 does not disclose or suggest "[a] multi-function OK button being configured to perform at least two functions when the multi-function OK button receives an input, the at least two functions including enabling the inputted setting of the image forming condition [for forming an image on a recording medium] and creating and displaying a shortcut button on the initial screen for redisplaying the setting screen on which the image forming condition was set," as

recited by claim 1 and similarly by claim 12. Maeda '487 does not remedy this deficiency.

Therefore, because the cited references, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of independent claims 1 and 12, no prima facie case of obviousness is established. Claims 2-3, 5-12, 14-19, and 22 depend from claims 1 and 12, and are therefore also not obvious in view of the cited references.

Applicants also respectfully request the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 20 and 21 over Maeda '487 and Maeda '627 in view of Funaki (US 6,707,471). The Office Action cites Funaki because Funaki allegedly discloses a cancel button for specifying the cancellation of processing of entered data. Funaki, however, fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, the above-described elements of independent claims 1 and 12 missing from Maeda '487 and Maeda '627. The cited references, therefore, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements of dependent claims 20 and 21, and no prima facie case of obviousness is established.

In view of the Interview of September 15, 2010, the Amendments to the claims, and the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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